

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the slowdown;

(c) whether it is a fact that slowdown was due to the effect of monetary tightening measures dampening blistering demand and easing price pressures;

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that Secondary Adjusted Price Manager's Index fell to 56.6 in December from 58.9 in November as also strong momentum of previous months due to slower domestic and external demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As per the latest available figures of Index of Industrial Production, the growth rate of the manufacturing sector during the period April-December, 2006 was 11.8 per cent. This is higher than the growth rate during the period April-June 2006 (11.7 per cent) and April-October, 2006 (11.0 per cent).

(b) to (d) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

(e) Sir, Government does not compile/monitor any such index and hence is not in a position to comment on the movement of such an index.

Tax arrears

799. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of tax arrears along with break up under different heads as on 31st March, 2006 and 30th September, 2006;

(b) whether there is any proposal to write off some amount of arrears; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Total amount of arrears as on 31.03.2006 and 30.9.2006 along with break-up under different heads is as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Heads	As on 31.03.2006	As on 30.09.2006
Corporation Tax	69,532.00	59,972.00
Income Tax	47,551.00	45,747.00
Central Excise	16,092.57	17,523.35
Customs	4,850.55	5,669.31
Service Tax	650.31	705.34
TOTAL:	138,676.43	129,617.00

(b) No, Sir. Only absolutely irrecoverable arrears of taxes are written off as per the detailed procedure laid down in this regard on a case-to-case basis. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to write off non-recoverable demand in a summary manner.

(c) In view of reply to part (b) above, the question does not arise.

Special treatment to Kendriya Bhandar

800. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received the proposal of giving special dispensation to Kendriya Bhandar and NCCF from Department of Personnel & Training; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal has been received from DOPT for giving preferential treatment to Kendriya Bhandar (KB) and National Consumer Cooperative Federation (NCCF). The major relief sought in the proposal is to authorize KB and NCCF to supply all items required for office consumption up to Rs. 1 lakh, on each occasion, on the basis of single quotation. The above proposal is under consideration of this Ministry.